

Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant

Site Specific Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

October 16, 1997

The October 16, 1997, Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) meeting took place at Heath High School at 6:00 p.m.

The following board members were present: Nola Courtney, Mark Donham, Vicki Jones, Ronald Lamb, Linda Long, Ray McLennan, Craig Rhodes, Bill Tanner and Gregory Waldrop. Ex Officio members present were: Wayne Davis, Jimmie Hodges and John Volpe. Facilitator Present: Steve Kay. Also present were: Todd Adams, Carlos Alvarado, Rich Bonczek, Teresa Fields, Pat Gourieux, Dennis Hill, Craig Jones, Charlie Logsdon, Jimmy Massey, Scott McMurry, Dwight Mitchell, Todd Mullins, Phil Smith and Jana White.

The agenda was modified to include an Update on the Drum and an Update on the Small Mammal Study. The modified agenda was approved by consensus.

Steve Kay asked for approval of the September 18, 1997, meeting minutes. Mark Donham proposed that the minutes be amended to include a statement by Jimmie Hodges that small amounts of transuranics were recovered at Paducah. He felt that this was significant. He stated that this was the first time he had heard this information. The amended minutes were approved by consensus.

The next item on the agenda was the Environmental Management and Enrichment Facilities (EMEF) updates. Mark suggested that November's agenda include the EM Evaluation Matrix Ranking.

The update on the drum incident was the next item on the agenda. Pat Gourieux gave a presentation on what had happened and what actions have been taken. Movement of similar drums has been suspended. Craig Rhodes asked how the contents would be neutralized. Pat explained that some form of base would be used. The acid would be neutralized. The intent is to make the waste not volatile. The waste will still contain the radionuclides. Questions were asked about worker exposure and clean up processes. It was stated that the radionuclide is not the problem, it is the nitric acid. The area is cordoned off, signs are posted and entry is minimized. Vicki Jones asked if the Department of Energy (DOE) is looking at what caused the incident. Jimmie Hodges stated that they had looked at that and their intent is to look into what led to the incident. DOE is looking at better ways of communicating complex wide. Record keeping from the 1960's was not as good as it is now. There is a lot of waste that has not been characterized yet. The importance of getting this waste characterized has been brought forward. This incident has caused Lockheed Martin Energy Systems, Inc. (LMES) to issue a new procedure on overpacking liquids. The entire storage system is being looked at. All operations are suspended in the building at this time.

Mark Donham asked if the contract would only cover the remaining 16 drums. Pat stated that the number was approximately double. Mark asked if the 16 barrels of waste are the 13 or 15 cubic meters of transuranic waste identified in the Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Pat stated that part of them will be, but they will not be disposed of. Some of the 16 drums are classified as

transuranic waste but they will only be treated not disposed of. The waste in the rest of these drums has been classified as mixed waste. It is possible that in the treatment process that they might be re-classified as mixed low-level waste. Mark asked if the board could get a copy of the characterization data. He also asked if the investigation team had completed their report. Jimmie Hodges stated that the report was not final. The board asked to be kept informed. It will be put on the agenda when the report is complete. The Executive Summary will be presented to the board when the report is final.

The Small Mammal Study was the next item on the agenda. Craig Jones gave a brief presentation on the study. Phil Smith and Dr. Scott McMurry of Texas Tech showed slides and presented their report to the board. John Volpe emphasized that one has to be very careful when interpreting such small data sets. There were 67 animals trapped. Forty one white footed mice and 19 rice rats. Craig Rhodes asked about shrews. He asked if they had considered testing domestic cats. Phil Smith stated that although feral cats would represent a good sentinel species, such a study would not have been a good public relations move. There were two cats on the reference site and they were fat. Charlie Logsdon stated that it would be very difficult to prove where the cats had come from and how long they had been there. Charlie Logsdon questioned the substitution of the rice rat for the shrews. Shrews are a much better choice but shrews at the West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area (WKWMA) were scarce. Craig Jones concluded the presentation by discussing ecological/human health impacts and future activities.

The next item on the agenda was the Water Policy. Dennis Hill discussed the Water Policy and presented some slides. DOE initially established a five year review of the water policy and is in the process of revising and renewing the Water Policies at this time. There are approximately 100 families that are on the city water. People who chose not to participate in the past will be revisited to see if they are interested in receiving the city water.

The draft SSAB Workplan was the next item on the agenda. Bill Tanner presented what he had found out on alternating locations. He had proposed this in the October meeting. Bill proposed that the away meetings be tailored to the community the meeting was in. Vicki Jones and Ronnie Lamb had suggested a meeting on groundwater contamination be held at the Wildlife Area. Also he suggested bringing in a water expert. Mark Donham is interested in the air monitoring and Bill suggested a meeting in Metropolis along with an air expert. Meetings based in the permanent meeting place could be administrative based. Mark stated that it would take several months to get the data to the experts and for them to review it. Bill suggested that the board be divided into groups of three by interest. This would give a broader look at the interests. The proposal was made to have 3-6 meetings each year that are away from the home base that deal with specific issues that are of a broader interest to the community. The proposal was agreed to by consensus. The proposal was made that committees be set up to determine topics of discussion, sites for the meeting and people (experts) to participate in the meetings. The proposal was agreed to by consensus. The proposed topics for discussion were groundwater, small mammals, air pollution, elected officials contact, and economic development. Two committees were formed as follows: Elected Officials Contact Committee: Ronnie Lamb, Mark Donham and Ray McLennan. Ray will serve as committee chairman. Wildlife Area Committee: Gregory Waldrop, Nola Courtney, and Vicki Jones. Gregory Waldrop will serve as committee chairman. In the Al Alm conference call budget issues were discussed and there was supposed to be a follow up. Carlos Alvarado stated that the Dallas meeting would be a good time to discuss these issues with Al Alm.

Steve Kay asked the board about the December meeting. Steve felt that a re-orientation meeting would be appropriate for the new members coming on board. Steve asked if there was any interest in having a meeting to discuss reorientation. Greg Waldrop suggested a pairing on new members with the members already on the board. It was proposed that the December meeting be canceled. It was approved by consensus.

Membership status was the next item for discussion. Carlos Alvarado stated that all the new members should have received a letter and package. There are four new members. Two of the current board members' (Tommy Fletcher and Bill Kressenberg) appointments had expired and they did not want to be reappointed. Greg Waldrop's appointment had expired and he asked to be reconsidered for the board. The proposal was made that he be appointed for a three year period. The proposal was approved by consensus. All terms will run from October 1 through September 30. The membership applications require further work. Needs to be placed on agenda for January.

The next item for discussion was the Dallas meeting. Connie Sykes will be attending from Paducah. Mark Donham stated that each board would give a 10 minute talk on the top three issues. Mark felt that she needed some guidance. The three issues that were suggested for Connie to speak on were: Groundwater, Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) and Heavy Metal Contamination in Land and Effects on Small Mammals, and Management of Legacy Waste. Nola stated she had some notes from the Knoxville trip and would get them to Connie. Vicki Jones will get Connie the information from this meeting.

The next items on the agenda were administrative duties. Changes to the mission/scope will be discussed at the November meeting. Information on the office space and on clerical help will be discussed at the next meeting. There was some discussion on combining the upcoming DUF6 Workshop with the November meeting but due to the large amount of agenda items already scheduled, it was suggested that the workshop be held in December.

The next meeting will be held on November 20, 1997, at the Heath High School at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned.

Tentative Agenda for the November 20, 1997, meeting:

Minutes

Information (Handouts)

EMEF Project Updates

Administrative Plans for the board

EM Evaluation Matrix Ranking

Drum Update

Waste Management Report

Strategies for Effective & Meaningful Public Input Report

Review of the SSAB Draft Work Plan

Media Contact Discussion

WAG 22

Action Items

Provide board with copies of the characterization data on drum.